

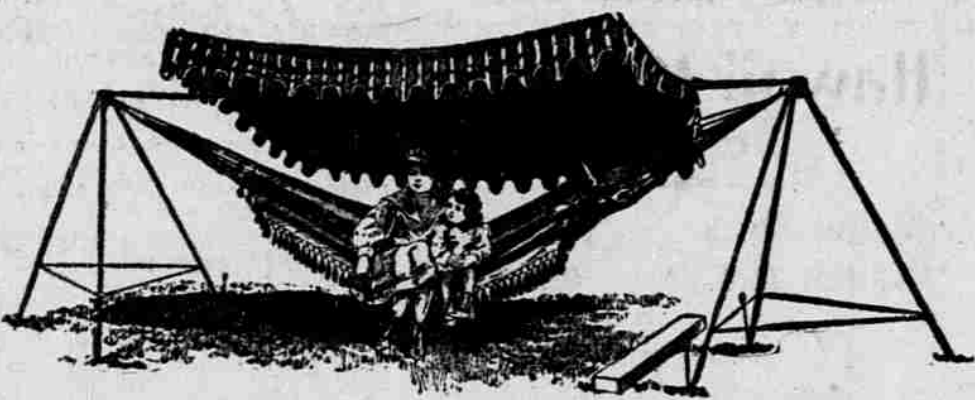
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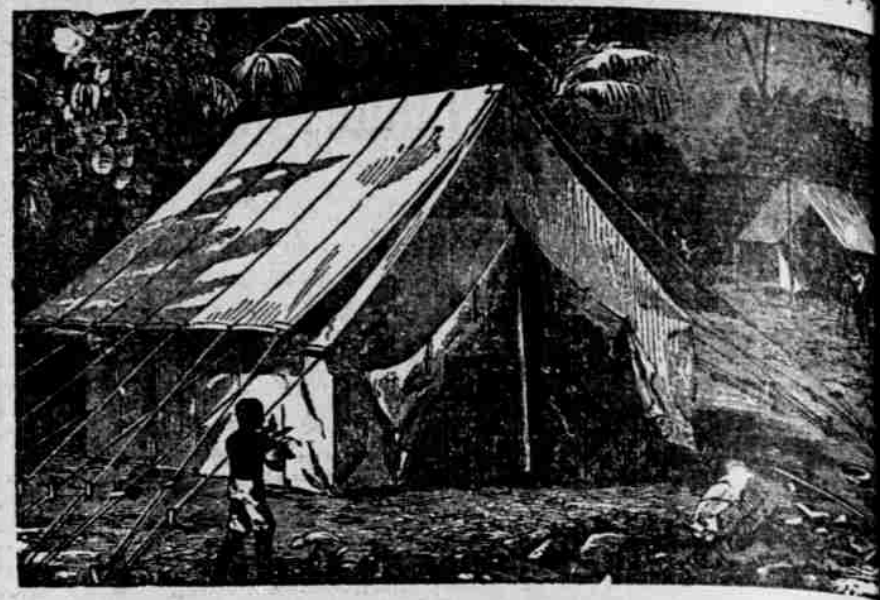
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DISPENSARY DISCUSSION OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Editor Advertiser—Much has already been written on the subject of the dispensary bill now before the legislative bodies, and yet a great deal more might be said in its favor. It is not with a hope of offering anything new or absolutely original on the subject that the present paper is being prepared. The question is one of such vital importance that it may well engage our attention, and call forth the testimony of a great many persons who love the cause of righteousness.

If the question of Christian obligation were left entirely out of the whole consideration of this matter and the discussion should turn entirely upon its merits from a social and moral standpoint, there is ample reason why the dispensary bill should pass and become a law. It is not necessary to argue the question of moral wrong in the liquor traffic. The whole traffic, from beginning to end, is the acknowledged monster evil of civilization, in whose wake follow all other vices. The men who are engaged in the business are not the men who give moral tone to the community, nor are they the men who carry out the highest obligations of man to man. These men not only degrade themselves by their contact and connection with the worst forms of vice and crime, but they become the manufacturers of poverty, crime and heinous sins, and at the same time are enemies to all social, moral and civil good. Such men do not pose in the light of reformers. They hate reformers and missionaries, and well they may. It is a real blessing to the lovers of truth and purity that such men do hate them. It becomes the duty of all good men to stand face to face with those who thus impeach virtue and slander purity, and degrade manhood, and create crime, and fortify all sorts of evil; and oppose them first, last and all the time.

It is no longer a question whether of duty or not to fight such a warfare against the liquor evil. The question seems to be one of method. We should be the last ones to say that method is not important, but there may be danger of too much concern over the method and not enough insistence on reaching the end in view. All good men are agreed that something ought to be done. But how?

One thing is certain, the liquor men are a unit in their fight of every good measure. They stand united to defeat every attempt at reform and to retard every movement for the betterment of mankind. The friends of reform and good morals are divided on ways and means, and methods of work. Each man feels that his way is the best, and refuses to work along the lines of others, however meritorious other plans may be. This seems true in the concrete; too true, we all feel. Theoretically, we all want to be in harmony. Ought we not to be so in fact? Ought we not stand together, shoulder to shoulder, hand in hand, in one solid phalanx? But can we? Can two walk together, except they be agreed?

From a purely social and moral standpoint, it would appear that every good man—every lover of truth and right—ought to stand for the enactment and enforcement of the dispensary bill. Let the following reasons be taken into consideration in proof of such a statement.

1. The liquor men are seriously opposed to the passage of this bill. It would not appear from all that we know of the past, that this class of individuals are, severally, ambitious, or particularly anxious for the welfare of the State or society. We could not call them disloyal citizens, for they have the legal right to engage in their business, but it does not appear that they are given to very active interests in good laws and good morals. We are led to judge the tree by its fruit, and this leads us to feel certain that any measure the liquor men oppose is a good one, and any law they try to defeat is a worthy law, since it interferes with their traffic in ruined lives and crime, and hence effects their income from their vicious business. When, therefore, the liquor men oppose a law, as a class of men engaged in their business may oppose a law, it is safe to say that law is a good one and ought to pass. These men are not such philanthropists that they will lavish their gold for the good of morality and wholesome laws, since good morals and good laws oppose their financial interests.

2. While the dispensary bill may not be all that those who love truth and virtue and seek the advancement of morality in the community might wish it to be, yet it is a step in the right direction and one that will make possible another step, and one that will lead to higher civilization and better moral conditions in the community. It is not necessary to say "Of two evils, choose the lesser." It is not at all necessary that we choose any evil; but let us not despise the good. Any measure which will defeat the saloon power and destroy its means of getting gold from its traffic in crime and sin, is in the line of advancement.

3. If the dispensary bill is defeated, it will be another victory for the liquor men. Will the cause of moral reform and the true manhood gain by constant yielding to evil? Shall we come out of defeat stronger than when we went into the conflict? Will it not be much more difficult to get another law, whether better or worse, introduced into the houses of legislation? Truth has suffered too many defeats already at the hands of its enemies, because of the neglect or indifference or sectional strife among its disciples.

4. Should the law fail in its provisions for enforcement, and its execution become inadequate through some inherent weakness, still it is better that it pass than that it should fail to become a law. For if the law prove to be incompetent to meet the needs and designs of its framers, it will be much easier to get it amended, or a new law in its stead, after we shall have had experience and better knowledge of the requirements. If the law fail to pass, then it will be much harder to introduce another measure that will look toward the same end.

From these considerations, it would seem that every lover of reform and purity should stand earnestly and bravely for the passage of this bill. That there ought to be nothing that would divide the wishes of those who stand

for morality, or cause any division of effort, would seem to be the demand of this present struggle.

But there is yet a higher obligation than the purely moral and social side. There is the fact of Christian obligation, which is even greater and more binding. The claims of Christ are higher than those of the mere moralist, and these claims he has laid upon his followers. It is not a matter of individual preference with the Christian. Duty in the abstract and in the concrete must be his guiding star, and at the same time the constraining power which impels and compels him forward. The very fact that the enemy of all good is concerned and ambitious for the defeat of this measure, is proof enough to the Christian that it is his undoubted duty to earnestly insist on the passage of the bill. Good men are in the majority and can carry the point at issue. The whole difficulty is that bad men, while in the minority, get their support from the proceeds of the evil traffic, and they can afford to put their money into it, and thus defeat the wishes of the majority.

Does it not seem to be the duty of the hour for all good men to stand firmly by the demand for the passage of the dispensary bill, and then see to it that it is enforced? Who has the welfare of this community, and the whole Territory more at heart; the saloon keepers and liquor dealers, or the sober, industrious tradesmen and citizens, who have honor and a love for virtue uppermost in their hearts?

ERNEST H. SHANKS,
Superintendent Protective League of Honolulu.

RESULTS OF THE DISPENSARY SYSTEM IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

From a message to the General Assembly of South Carolina by Governor Joan Gary Evans in February, 1896:

"As a moral reform measure the Dispensary must commend itself to any unprejudiced mind. The temptations offered to the youths of the State by the saloons have been swept away, and with them have gone the games of billiards, pool, the faro banks and the corrupt influence of the barkeeper in municipal and State elections. During the late holidays there occurred only one homicide in the State, and this was not from whisky, but an old feud. This record has never been known before.

"It appears from reports sent in by the various towns that drunkenness has decreased for the entire State 37 per cent. The number of cases tried in Mayors' courts for drunkenness and disorderly conduct has decreased 69.16 per cent. The consumption of whisky has decreased 47.67 per cent.

"Reports from all but two counties were received. With but one exception the whole thirty-three counties report marked improvement in all respects; less crime, less drunkenness, less consumption of liquors, increase in savings bank deposits, and more general prosperity."

Attention was called in the Advertiser editorial of April 10 to the plan and beneficial results of the Gopher system, which allows a company to handle the liquors at a profit of the ordinary rate of interest. The South Carolina plan is substantially the same as the system proposed for the Territory of Hawaii. Two more dissimilar countries can scarcely be found than Sweden and South Carolina, and yet the same report of an increase of general prosperity and a decrease of evils comes from both places. How can any one affirm that the same system will work chiefly for evil in Hawaii when the results have been so good in other places?

It is also interesting to note that on March 27, 1896, the Liquor Dealers' Protective Association of Honolulu, in a petition for protection from illicit liquors, makes the following statements which are exceedingly damaging to the claim that the Dispensary system will be much more injurious than the saloon system. It is a frank admission that the saloon system is a rank failure in checking either illicit manufacture or sale. They say: "For the reliability of the following figures we can vouch: (1) In the fourteen months commencing January 1, 1895, and ending February 29, 1896, at which date the market was almost bare of saki, the total importations of that liquor amounted to 173,966 gallons, while the sale by licensed saloons throughout the Islands in the same period showed a consumption of but 13,289 gallons, less than 8 per cent of total importations. (2) We are confident that we are within bounds when we state that there are from 75 to 100 illicit dealers in intoxicating liquors on each island. It will be seen therefore that 92 per cent of the profit in saki is carried by illicit dealers. (3) Besides the illicit dealers, we have to meet the competition of the illicit manufacturer. In the opinion of those best acquainted with this illicit manufacture, it forms no small item. (4) From 1885 to 1895 the liquor interests have paid in duties at the custom house the sum of \$2,885,362."

When the profit on the liquors for which these duties were paid is also taken into account, it makes an enormous sum paid by the people of these Islands, with no adequate return in either happiness or general prosperity. It is time that some change in the method of handling intoxicants were contemplated. The question is pertinently asked of those who oppose the Dispensary bill: "Are you putting anything in its place to restrict the increasing use of intoxicants?"

W. D. WESTERVELT.

TALKED IN SALT LAKE.

Utah Interview With a Present Visitor in Honolulu.

The Salt Lake Tribune of March 23 contains the following interview on finance with Congressman Hill of Connecticut, who is at present in Honolulu the guest of L. A. Thurston:

Hon. E. W. Hill of Norwalk, Conn., a member of the Committee on Banking and Currency of the House of Representatives at Washington, and Dr. William F. Acton, also of Norwalk, were guests at the Knutsford yesterday, en route westward on a trip around the world.

When asked as to the status of finan-

cial legislation in the next Congress, Mr. Hill said: "At the last session of Congress the Committee on Finance, by the unanimous Republican vote, reported a bill providing for the exchangeability of silver and gold; or, in other words, giving to the Secretary of the Treasury power to do what the law of gold required him to do, but did not provide means for doing, viz., the maintenance of the parity between silver and gold. It did provide for the gold redemption of greenbacks, but left the parity of silver to be maintained by use only. The bill providing for the exchangeability of silver with gold on the demand of the holder, received the unanimous Republican vote of the coinage committee, and practically a

similar bill received a like vote in the Committee on Banking and Currency.

"Owing to an unfortunate delay of business in the Senate, due to the so-called ship subsidy bill, it was impossible to secure consideration of any financial measure there. The only bill of that kind acted on by the Senate was the extension of the charters of the national banks. Unquestionably some measure giving the Secretary of the Treasury means by which he can maintain the parity of silver under any and all conditions will again be reported in the House at the next session, and everything points to a favorable action then, and the sending of it to the Senate. There is every reason to believe also that a very material change will be made in our banking laws looking to the experimental use of so-called asset bank-note issues now, with a view to ultimately changing from a bond-secured note issue to a credit currency system.

"While I do not look for any radical change at present, I think the drift of opinion in Congress is in this direction. Indeed the Banking and Currency Committee reported at the last session a bill of this character. I think the general tendency of Congress is toward gold as the only legal tender, with bank notes of large denominations as commercial instruments, and silver as change money for daily use among the people."

Relative to polygamy, Mr. Hill said that it was regarded as a dead issue in the East since Roberts was thrown out of Congress, and that Gov. Wells's veto of the Evans bill followed so quickly on the heels of the bill's passage, that there was no time for any excitement over the bill to fan into a flame. Mr. Hill spoke in the highest terms of Judge King, who was a great favorite in Congress.

BAKING POWDER.

The profits on some of the well known high-priced baking powders are enormous, and the many different and misleading ways of advertising in nearly all cases, would ordinarily make the consumer believe that unless he pays a high price he receives an inferior baking powder. Their principal argument is against so-called alum baking powders.

In the K. C. baking powder, put up by the Jaques Manufacturing Company, of Chicago, there is 3 per cent alum, which is entirely evaporated when cooked in bread or cake, leaving nothing but the phosphate property in the article consumed; or, in other words, absolutely pure. In many of the well advertised high-priced baking powders is contained Rochelle salts, which is far more injurious than a baking powder which originally contains a 3 per cent ingredient of alum. The K. C. baking powder has been upheld by all State authorities, and while the baking powder trust has several times tried to injure its reputation, both through the boards of health or courts, they have invariably failed to accomplish their end.

Judge Johnson an Ann Arbor Man.

Professor Charles F. Johnson, who has been appointed a supreme judge in the Philippines, has long been connected with the University of Michigan, where he is secretary of the law department. He formerly lived in Ohio, where at the age of twenty-two he was elected to the Legislature by the Republicans in a Democratic district. Professor Johnson is president of the Michigan State Board of Education.

THE SENATE AND HOUSE

(Continued from Page 1)

chise for a railroad in Kauai districts.

A bill to grant licenses for practice of medicine to all applicants had first reading.

A resolution to obtain information concerning the proposed extension of Vineyard street. Adopted.

Notice of an Act to fix the school children during certain (Beckley).

Introduction of a bill relating to widening of streets in Honolulu (Beckley).

Majority report on the General message, asking for a revision of existing laws, advised denial of adoption.

Report from Superintendent of Public Works on the Fall road, stating \$75,685 had been expended. Referred to committee.

Judiciary report against House Bill 14, relating to destruction of the Board of Health. Tabled.

Report of Judiciary committee on House Bill 74, relative to the payment of public moneys. Advise passage of bill. Tabled.

Reports of Judiciary committee on Senate Bills 13 and 14, relating to punishment for gross and receipt of stolen goods. Recommended that same pass with amendments. Tabled.

House Bill 74 relative to saloon (second reading). Laid on table.

Concurrent resolution (Cartwright) relative to finance. Referred to committee.

Notice of a bill referring to law at (Kaniho).

A bill to place all electric power in Honolulu underground, favorably reported on, with amendments. Committee on public lands and forests.

Notice of an Act to regulate the city (Makainai).

A bill to allow ex-Queen Liliuokalani to receive \$150,000 in Treasury bonds, in pension of \$12,000 a year. Passed second reading.

Report of Judiciary committee on Senate Bill 35, recommending the repeal of a bill.

Report of Judiciary committee on House Bill 56, and Senate Bill 14, relative to the employment of public works, submitted three bills, all of which passed the reading.

Resolution to extend an invitation to visiting Congressmen and Senators. Adopted.

Resolution to call Dr. Russell a house committee to prove charges. Adopted.

Judiciary committee's report on section 5 of concurrent resolution 3. Tabled.

Message from Secretary of the Interior, relative to criminal justice of district magistrates.

Introduction of a bill to provide for storage of lumber within the (Makainai).

Notice of a bill to tax all per ton (Ewailko).

Royal Investors.

Among European monarchs have profited by American investment the king of Sweden is said to have made money out of breweries in country, and King George, of England is reported to have been very successful in our grain markets.